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ACTION SS-45

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 (CCO-00, CIAE-00, DODE-00,
) WO 291222Z JAN 71
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1539

S E C R E T ATHENS 0451

EXDIS

SUBJECT: LOWENSTEIN-MOORE VISIT

REF: STATE 015512; ATHENS 422

1. WE CONCUR IN LANGUAGE OF PROPOSED STATEMENT FOR PRESS
RE LOWENSTEIN-MOORE VISIT TO GREECE.2. IF VISIT HERE IS TO COME OFF WITH REASONABLE SUCCESS,
I.E. OPPORTUNITY FOR VISITORS TO SEE ALL ELEMENTS IN GREEK
POLITICAL LIFE, IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL IN LIGHT OF INFORMATION
REGARDING EVANS-NOVAK COLUMN FOR RECORD TO BE CLEAR BEFORE
TRIP IS PLAYED UP BY EVANS AND NOVAK IN WAY WHICH GOG WOULD
CONSIDER INIMICAL TO ITS INTERESTS, POSSIBLY CAUSING IT TO
REFUSE TO RECEIVE STAFF DEL.3. I BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD ARRANGE FOR
SPOKESMAN TO MAKE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, PREFERABLY AT NOON
BRIEFING TODAY AND IN ANY EVENT NO LATER THAN NOON JANUARY
30, SO PURPOSE OF VISIT IS CLEARLY ON RECORD IN NON-
PARTISAN WAY. STAFF DEL CAN ALSO POINT TO THIS PRESS
STATEMENT IN DEALING WITH QUESTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES
OF AMERICAN PRESS HERE RE PURPOSE THEIR VISIT, AT LEAST
INITIALLY. EMBASSY WOULD OF COURSE TAKE SAME LINE WITH PRESS
INQUIREIES TO US.4. ON SAME OCCASION WE WOULD HOPE PRESS SPOKESMAN COULD
ALSO BE BRIEFED TO REITERATE, IN LINE WITH PREVIOUS PRESSCABLE SECRETARIAT ROUTING: EXDIS,
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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GUIDANCE AND U.S. STATEMENT AT TIME OF RESUMPTION OF ARMS
SHIPMENTS, THAT U.S. POLICY IN GREECE CONTINUES TO DERIVE
FROM OUR SECURITY INTERESTS IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN,
INCLUDING OUR NATO COMMITMENTS, AND THAT WE ALSO REMAIN
COMMITTED TO OBJECTIVE OF RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERN-
MENT IN GREECE.
TASCA

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THE EVENING STAR

DATE 28 Jan 71

PAGE 1

CAMBODIA INVOLVEMENT HIT**Senators Fear Wider War**

Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee expressed concern today that United States involvement in Cambodia was escalating the war there along the classic lines of the Vietnam buildup during the 1960s.

The committee spent the morning listening to Secretary of State William P. Rogers explain the U.S. position in Cambodia.

The session was closed, but senators emerging from it indicated a feeling that the Cambodian war has been widely expanded in recent weeks, possibly

in contravention of the so-called Cooper-Church Amendment passed by Congress last month.

That amendment prohibits the use of U.S. ground combat forces or military advisers in Cambodia. Yesterday Chairman John Stennis of the Senate Armed Services Committee warned that it may be necessary to relax restrictions on U.S. military operations there if the situation worsens.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird has denied that the intent of Cooper-Church is being violated.

But Sen. Stuart Symington,

D-Mo., emerged from the Rogers hearing today and said, "They are doing what they want to do in Cambodia, regardless of the Cooper-Church amendment."

"In my opinion we are going beyond what the President said, that there would be no air support and no logistical support," Symington said.

Symington said the air and sea war over Cambodia was being expanded and that casualty figures announced today would reflect this. He said they are the largest in several months.

"I could shut my eyes as I

heard these briefings and look back five years and they were comparable to the point of similarity to the briefings that I heard in Saigon back in 1965 in the fall," Symington said.

Sen. George D. Aiken, R-Vt., another Foreign Relations member, made a similar point. "My sympathies are with Cambodia," he said. "I expect Cambodia wishes we would all get out and stay out."

But Aiken said he doubted that the administration would expand the Cambodian war "because it

Continued From Page A-1
would result in an uproar in this country that would make last May seem like a Sunday school picnic."

He referred to the reaction in Congress and the nation when President Nixon invaded Cambodian sanctuaries with American troops last May 1.

Aiken said Secretary Rogers still maintained that American actions in Cambodia "are to make it more easy for us to withdraw."

He added, "I asked him why, if the enemy demand we leave the country they are making it so difficult to do so. I thought they would help carry our bags. Apparently the administration doesn't feel that way."

Asked if the administration was trying in some way to expand American involvement in Cambodia, Aiken said "I sense the administration at this time doesn't like to express itself."

One possibility raised by Stennis was that the United States would have to send in ground controllers to direct the American planes providing air support to Cambodian and South Vietnamese troops.

Cooper-Church Cited

Such use of American ground controllers in Cambodia would not be permissible under the Cooper-Church Amendment.

Laird appeared before the Armed Services Committee amid developing criticism in the Senate that the administration was violating the intent of the Cooper-Church Amendment with the recent introduction of American air support for Cambodian and South Vietnamese forces.

Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota, the only announced candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, sharply criticized Stennis' remarks, the Associated Press reported.

"It alarms me that any U.S. senator should talk about expanding our military operations in Cambodia . . .," he said. "Very frankly, any senator who talks about sending American

forces into Cambodia ought to lead the charge himself."

"I'm fed up with old men dreaming up wars for young men to die in, particularly stupid wars of this kind that add nothing to our security," McGovern added.

Laird gave the Armed Services Committee what Stennis later described as a "strongly confident" report that the military situation was "improving" in Cambodia and that "fair progress" was being made through the use of American air support.

The defense secretary insisted to reporters after the hearing that there has been "no violation of either the language of the law or the intent of Congress" in the current American military operations in Cambodia.

Mansfield Concerned

Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana, the Senate Democratic leader, asserted that Laird's interpretation that the current operations conformed with the restrictions of the Cooper-Church Amendment were "contrary to the fact."

Laird's opinion was shared by Stennis, who told reporters that he was "satisfied as of now" that the administration was "living within the limits" of the congressional restrictions.

Both Laird and Stennis emphasized that the amendment did not prohibit air support, and the senator argued that the absence of such a prohibition in effect gave the administration congressional authorization for conducting air operations over

But the repeated emphasis in the Stennis summation of the Laird briefing—as well as the military situation in Cambodia—was on the phrase "as of now."

Stennis said he was not predicting that "under present developments" it would be necessary to relax the restrictions in the Cooper-Church Amendment. But the "margin is so thin," he said, that "no one can say with certainty" that the military situation can be met within the present restrictions.

Even if the current air opera-

tions are successful, he said, the military "problem will continue for some time" in Cambodia. And he expressed doubt that the "problem" could be met within the confines of the present air operations.

Stennis said he did not foresee the need for "a large, new commitment" of ground combat troops to Cambodia. But if the military situation grows "substantially worse"—a possibility he did not exclude—then he said, "We may have to re-examine our policy and restrictions."

If, for example, he said, North Vietnamese troops are successful in gaining control of more territory in Cambodia, then it may become necessary for the U.S. to "step up" its air operations. And, if the U.S. air operations are expanded, he suggested, it may be necessary to send in American ground controllers